

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Yukihisa TAKEUCHI, Tsutomu NANATAKI and Iwao OHWADA

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: DISPLAY APPARATUS

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Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp
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Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification:

At page 1, after the title and before the first sentence, please insert the following paragraph:

--This application claims priority from Japanese Application 2000-394,225, filed December 26, 2000, the entirety of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 3-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 19 as follows:

3. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a joint angle of the display units is set to an angle at which a joint portion of said display units protrudes away from a viewer.

4. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a joint angle of the display units is set to an angle at which a joint portion of said display units protrudes toward a viewer.

5. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a reflector that is arranged along a side of the light guide plate in a joint portion of the display units.

7. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a reflector that is arranged along that side of the light guide plate, which is remote from a joint portion of the display units.

9. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a reflector that is arranged along top and/or bottom of the light guide plate.

11. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a columnar transparent body that is arranged along the side of the light guide plate in a joint portion of the display units, said columnar transparent body being out of contact with said side of the light guide plate.

13. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light guide plate is of a wedge-like sectional shape having a thickness that decreases gradually toward a joint portion of the display units.

15. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a light source and a reflector both arranged along that side of the light guide plate, which is remote from the joint portion of the display units.

16. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a light source and a reflector both arranged along a top and/or a bottom of the light guide plate.

19. (Amended) A display system comprising plurality of display apparatuses according to claim 1, wherein plurality of said display apparatuses are combined with each other to form a structural body having a desired three-dimensional shape.

REMARKS

Prior to examination, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment in which the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities.

Claims 1-32 are pending herein. Applicants have amended the claims to eliminate multiple dependent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants believe the case is now in condition for examination.

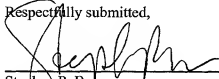
Attached hereto as pages 4 and 5 is a marked-up version of the changes made to claims 3-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 19 by the current Amendment. The attached pages are captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

December 20, 2001

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 3-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 19 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a joint angle of the display units is set to an angle at which a joint portion of said display units protrudes away from a viewer. ✓
4. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a joint angle of the display units is set to an angle at which a joint portion of said display units protrudes toward a viewer. ✓
5. (Amended) A display apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, further comprising a reflector that is arranged along a side of the light guide plate in a joint portion of the display units. ✓
7. (Amended) A display apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1, further comprising a reflector that is arranged along that side of the light guide plate, which is remote from a joint portion of the display units. ✓
9. (Amended) A display apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1-8~~ claim 1, further comprising a reflector that is arranged along top and/or bottom of the light guide plate. ✓
11. (Amended) A display apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1-4 or 7-10~~ claim 1, further comprising a columnar transparent body that is arranged along the side of the light guide plate in a joint portion of the display units, said columnar transparent body being out of contact with said side of the light guide plate. ✓
13. (Amended) A display apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein the light guide plate is of a wedge-like sectional shape having a thickness that decreases gradually toward a joint portion of the display units. ✓
15. (Amended) A display apparatus according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~, further comprising a light source and a reflector both arranged along that side of the light guide plate, which is remote from the joint portion of the display units. ✓

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

16. (Amended) A display apparatus ~~as in one of claims 13-15~~according to claim 13, further comprising a light source and a reflector both arranged along a top and/or a bottom of the light guide plate. ✓

19. (Amended) A display system comprising plurality of display apparatuses according to ~~any one of claims 1-18~~claim 1, wherein plurality of said display apparatuses are combined with each other to form a structural body having a desired three-dimensional shape. ✓

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